

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Walsoken Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I again have the honour of submitting to you a brief Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1917.

The usual tables of Vital Statistics and Infectious Diseases are withheld for this year, but I am greatly pleased at being able to tell you, that the health of the district has been very much better and the number of Infectious Cases reported very considerably less in number than in the previous year.

The outbreak of Typhoid Fever, which caused us so much anxiety, extended into the early months, but the vigorous measures adopted to stop this serious epidemic proved effective, and only four fresh cases, of a milder type, were notified: three in the month of January and one in February, whilst a liberal supply of disinfectants have always been provided in all cases of infection.

The district has been kept in a very cleanly condition, and when inspected I have found the various Factories, Workshops, Cowsheds and Slaughter Houses in a much better condition.

The Printing Factory, which employs a large number of hands, still continues well-provided with efficient sanitary arrangements, and great care is exercised on behalf of those employed there.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act, several dwellings have been dealt with, and although a limited number have been attended to in consequence of the prevailing conditions, steps have been taken to improve injurious conditions likely to spread and create diseases among the occupants of the district.

Reviewing the Infectious Diseases notified:—there were

Four cases of Typhoid Fever and two of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

One case of Scarlet Fever only.

Fifteen cases of Measles of which one was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Ten cases of Chicken Pox.

Two cases of Diphtheria.

Two cases of Erysipelas.

In respect of Births:—

There were 35 males and 30 females born during the year, of these four were illegitimate boys and one illegitimate girl, compared with 70, the number last year, and giving a birth-rate of 15·9 per 1000 of the population.

In respect of Deaths :—

The number of deaths from all causes was 45 including one outward death and as well there were six deaths amongst persons belonging to the district, but who died away, giving a nett number of 50, and a low death-rate of 10·7 per 1000 of the population. Amongst these deaths are included the deaths of three infants only, giving an infantile death-rate of 46·1 per 1000 of the nett births registered during the year.

Included in the deaths—Phthisis caused 6 and other Tuberculous Diseases 2, Heart Disease 5, Influenza 4, Cancerous Affections 3, and Bronchitis 2 deaths.

Under 1 year of age there were 3 deaths.

Between 1 year and 5 years 1 death.

„ 5 years and 15 years 3 deaths.

„ 15 „ 25 „ 3 „

„ 25 „ 65 „ 14 „

Over 65 years 26 deaths.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

HARRY GROOM, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

